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Evaluation Of A Telemetry System For Use In Vehicle-Barrier

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Nordlin, E.F.; Ames, W.H.; Kubel, L.G.; and Chow, W.

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16. ABSTRACT

An instrumentation telemetry system for use in vehicle-barrier crash test data acquisition has been evaluated. This system, assembled by Wyle Laboratories of El Segundo, California, is called the Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System. It consists of 7 channels of FM telemetry installable in a crash vehicle and 7 channels of hardwire telemetry installable on fixed barriers. The system includes 7 accelerometers and 2 seat belt force transducers and all necessary signal conditioning equipment for their use. The dynamic data from these transducers are recorded on a 14 channel analog magnetic tape recorder.

The system functions adequately but requires much electronic support equipment in its use and instrumentation expertise for meaningful data acquisition.

17. KEYWORDS

Instrumentation, telemetry, data acquisition, vehicle-barrier crash test, accelerometer, seat belt force transducer, tape recorder.

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HIGHWAY RESEARCH REPORT

69-21

EVALUATION OF A TELEMETRY SYSTEM FOR USE IN VEHICLE-BARRIER IMPACT TESTS

INSTRUMENTATION REPORT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BUSINESS & TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

MATERIALS AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH REPORT

NO. M & R 636405-1

Prepared in Cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Public Roads July, 1969

14 :

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

MATERIALS AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT 5900 FOLSOM BLVD., SACRAMENTO 95819



July 1969

Instrumentation Report
M & R No. 636405-1
D-4-69

Mr. John Legarra State Highway Engineer

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith is a report titled:

EVALUATION OF A TELEMETRY SYSTEM

FOR USE IN

VEHICLE-BARRIER IMPACT TESTS

E. F. NORDLIN
Principal Investigator

W. H. Ames, L. G. Kubel, and W. Chow Co-Principal Investigators

Very truly yours,

JØHN L. BEATON

Materials and Research Engineer

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ABSTRACT

REFERENCE: Nordlin, E. F., Ames, W. H., Kubel, L. G., and Chow, W., "Evaluation of a Telemetry System for Use in Vehicle-Barrier impact Tests", State of California, Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, Materials and Research Department. Research Report No. 636405-1 dated July 1969.

ABSTRACT: An instrumentation telemetry system for use in vehicle-barrier crash test data acquisition has been evaluated. This system, assembled by Wyle Laboratories of El Segundo, California, is called the Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System. It consists of 7 channels of FM telemetry installable in a crash vehicle and 7 channels of hardwire telemetry installable on fixed barriers. The system includes 7 accelerometers and 2 seat belt force transducers and all necessary signal conditioning equipment for their use. The dynamic data from these transducers are recorded on a 14 channel analog magnetic tape recorder.

The system functions adequately but requires much electronic support equipment in its use and instrumentation expertise for meaningful data acquisition.

KEY WORDS: Instrumentation, telemetry, data acquisition, vehicle-barrier crash test, accelerometer, seat belt force transducer, tape recorder.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The researchers wish to express their appreciation to the Bureau of Public Roads for the loan of the Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System for use in the California Division of Highways barrier research program.

This is the first in a series of reports to be issued for a research project titled "Energy Absorbing Highway Barrier Designs". This work is being accomplished under Item D-4-69 in the 1968-69 Work Program HPR-PR-1(6), in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Public Roads.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Bureau of Public Roads.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The California Division of Highways is in a continuing program to upgrade the safety aspects of their highway-vehicle barriers. This involves the full-scale testing of various barrier designs by impacting vehicles into them. Of paramount importance is acquisition of the physical data (acceleration, deceleration, force, time, velocity, etc.) during these tests, both from within the vehicle and from the barrier. The impact data from within the vehicle may be acquired by:

- Recording the vehicle and dummy occupant impact data directly onto a recorder mounted inside of the crash vehicle.
- 2. Recording the vehicle and dummy occupant impact data through a tether cable connected to a recorder mounted in a follow-up vehicle.
- 3. Transmitting the vehicle and dummy occupant impact data through a radio transmitter mounted in the impact vehicle to a ground receiving station.

This report concerns the last of the three described methods and reports the California Division of Highways' experience, trials, modifications, and assessment of a radio telemetry type system assembled by Wyle Laboratories of 128 Maryland Street, El Segundo, California. This system is called the Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System.

Basically, this system was assembled and packaged by Wyle for the Bureau of Public Roads from commercially available instruments on the market. The instruments and accessories comprising the system and its accessories are shown in Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, and a system block diagram is shown in Figure 12.

The Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System is on loan from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Public Roads to the Division of Highways for their use and evaluation. The use and evaluation of the Wyle system was performed under the Division of Highways Research Project No. M & R 636405, "Energy Absorbing Highway Barrier Designs", D-4-69.

11. CONCLUSIONS-ASSESSMENT OF THE COMPLETE SYSTEM

To date (June 1969) assessment of the Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System is based upon the California Division of Highways' experience with it during three vehicle impact tests and numerous checkout and debugging trials.

It is the opinion of the researchers that meaningful data can be obtained from this system provided that it is operated by engineers with expertise in the instrumentation, telemetry, and magnetic tape recording fields. This system is very complex and this expertise is made even more mandatory because of the lack of detailed instructions, technical information, and engineering data (particularly with the Industrial Electronetics radio telemetry unit) supplied with the system. For the unwary, the system is fraught with pitfalls so that its rote use could produce questionable data.

In addition, the expertise required must also be "backed-up" by a well equipped electronic instrumentation laboratory. The system as supplied contained no test or calibration instruments and, most important, no visual playback instrument. In Figure 5 and Figure 5a, Items 5 through 16, note the minimum amount of electronic instruments supplied by the California Division of Highways' laboratory in order to set up the system, record the "accident", and playback the "accident" for visual analysis.

III. TELEMETRY SYSTEM

The telemetry components of the Wyle system package were manufactured by industrial Electronetics who do not state their system's radio range (distance) reception. However, they do state, "The use of this FM band is permitted by the Federal Communication Commission under the restricted radiation clause wherein transmission is limited to the confines of the owner's property and the transmission does not interfere with commercially licensed stations." Therefore, the Division of Highways' experience with the Industrial Electronetics Telemetry System indicates that it meets the above FCC requirement, but its use in the Division of Highways' range requirement (700 feet) is beyond its capability.

The Industrial Electronetics Telemetry System is indeed a low range radio system. Ron Scott of Wyle advised W. Chow on August 1, 1968, that John Webster of Industrial Electronetics had given him (Scott) the following information as the IE telemetry system:

- 1. Transmitter has an output of about 2 milliwatts but that this value was very difficult to ascertain positively. (We measured 0.6 milliwatts output).
- Receiver sensitivity is 1-2 microvolts. (we measured 8 to 16 microvolts sensitivity for 20 db quieting).
- 3. System is very susceptible to ignition noise. Our (Division of Highways) ignition noise problems are normal and the transmitter-receiver must be separated by less than 100 feet for adequate reduction of ignition noise. IE stated that they have similar ignition noise problems.

The major inadequacy of this system, for the Division of Highways' purpose, has been the low range reception between the transmitter and the receiver (see Figure 11). In a crash test the crash car and the transmitter in it may be 700 feet down range from the receiving antenna. This means that during a large portion of the car run-in the transmitter is beyond the range of the receiver, while the car is coming towards the crash point, until the 300 feet point is reached (see Figure 11) wherein the transmitter is in the range of the receiver.

The above inadequacy created another problem in that the AFC (automatic frequency control) in the receiver had to be turned off when the receiver is in a metropolitan area to avoid seeking stray signals. At a down range distance of 700 feet the receiver was too far from the transmitter to receive and lock on to it; therefore, if the AFC was on, it would seek to lock-on to any available FM signal in the air or possibly to lock-on to the wrong channel of the transmitter as it came into the receiver

range. With the AFC off, this affected the receiver operation by causing it to drift off "station". After the first test, it was decided that the station drift could not be tolerated, and the AFC was utilized for subsequent tests. This decision was justified since our crash test site (Lincoln, California) is located in a remote area which is relatively free from FM stations.

Initially no signal was received on channel 2. The problem was located and was due to a female clip missing on its BNC connector in the transmitter.

The tuning slugs for the transmitter (carrier) appeared to be loose and may have contributed to the carrier drift. Therefore, fingernail polish was applied to each of the slugs to affix them permanently in position after realignment. However, several of the receiver tuning slugs were frozen tight so that no adjustments could be made. Furthermore, since industrial Electronetics supplied no alignment procedure or voltage adjustment range, no further attempt was made to align the telemetry system.

is excessive. For example, if 500 mv is the full scale output of a particular accelerometer telemetry channel and the accelerometer sustains a 100 mv "crash", then the 20 mv of noise superimposed on it would represent a +20% error in the 100 mv "crash".

Although the Industrial Electronetics instructions indicate satisfactory operation with the transmitter batteries down to 7.7 volts, the Division of Highways' experience indicates excessive SCO (sub-carrier oscillator) drift when battery voltage is below 8.75 volts. Therefore, voltage must be maintained above 8.75 volts for drift-free operations.

The seven indicating meter's center position did not always indicate the best receiver tuning. This is probably due to the improper or inaccurate FM discriminator alignment. It was found necessary to tune each of the 7 receivers for their best sinusoidal waveform (not amplitude) while monitoring it on an oscilloscope. The oscilloscope also afforded a visual indication of correct tuning, which is essential, because incorrect tuning produced high frequency noise and distortion of the sine wave.

The system comes supplied with five (20" long) transmitting antennae (Figures 6-2 and 13). One of the antennae was inoperative when received because it had a fractured soldered connection between the cup base and the antenna. All of the antennae should be examined occasionally for such possible defects. Care should be taken to remove the paint from beneath the antenna mount on the crash vehicle to assure a good ground connection.

The transmitting antenna should be mounted directly in the center of the crash vehicle's roof. This is so that the antenna may have a symmetrical ground-plane in which to reflect its radio signal. Antenna off-center mounting could contribute to telemetry signal drop-off.

The antennae supplied with the system were 20^{11} long, apparently cut for 1/4 wave length at 140 megahertz. Since the system is in the FM band (88 to 108 megahertz), a 31^{11} length antenna was used in lieu of one of the 20^{11} antennae. This longer antenna was cut for 1/4 wave length at 95 megahertz, or in roughly the middle of the FM band, and has given better reception than the 20^{11} antenna.

The system is supplied with a 5 element Yagi receiving antenna (Figure 8). Its coverage is approximately 160° in a 300 foot radius as shown in Figure 11. Contrary to the usual home TV antenna orientation, the best reception is obtained with the antenna plane oriented perpendicular to the ground as shown in Figure 8. This orientation produces a common polarization plane between the transmitting and receiving antennae and therefore the optimum reception.

IV. ACCELEROMETERS

The Statham series A514Tc accelerometers (Figure 6-5) supplied with this system cannot be subjected to rough handling like the Division of Highways' Statham series A5a accelerometers (Figure 6-4). One of the A514Tc Stathams became inoperative simply by lightly tapping it with a screwdriver handle and another apparently due to rough handling. Repair of these accelerometers is time-consuming and costly. The Statham Company required 5 months and \$250 for each repair. It is suggested that the Statham A5a series be used in lieu of the Statham A514Tc because of its inherent ruggedness.

Wyle supplied a 350 ohm calibration test bridge substitution box (Figure 6-7) for calibration of the accelerometer telemetry channels (Figure 6-1). However, use of this box was an awkward procedure in the field necessitating the complete removal of each accelerometer connection plug from its telemetry channel and the reconnection of the substitution box's connection plug into each telemetry channel, a channel at a time. Wyle's reason for this substitution box was that a shunt calibrate resistor across an accelerometer created capacitance problems in the telemetry channels. However, the Division of Highways has used calibrate resistors from a decade resistor box (Figure 6-9) across each accelerometer, in lieu of the substitution box, and experienced no difficulties. The shunt calibrate resistor values for direct connection across each accelerometer supplied in the system are listed in Figure 9, "Barrier System". The shunt resistor values listed in Figure 10, "Telemetry System", are to be used only with the substitution box. Note that the shunt resistor values for a given acceleration are different for the two "systems".

The excitation voltage to the accelerometers is 1.3 volts at a nominal 4K Hz when connected to the Industrial Electronetics telemetry system.

V. SEAT-BELT TRANSDUCERS

The BLH seat-belt transducers (Figure 6-6) presented no particular problem except that its designed resistance of 120 ohms could more conveniently have been 350 ohms for uniformity with the Statham 350 ohms accelerometers.

The comments about the dummy bridge substitution box in Part IV - "Accelerometers" also applies here. The Division of Highways eliminated the use of the 120 ohm dummy bridge substitution box (Figure 6-8) and successfully used calibrate resistors directly across the seat-belt transducers in a similar fashion previously described for accelerometers.

The excitation voltage to the seat-belt transducer is also 1.3 volts at a nominal 4K Hz.

VI. DATA PLAYBACK AND ANALYSIS

Although the Wyle system does not include visual playback instrumentation, the Division of Highways data playback method and analysis is included herein to demonstrate more fully the "total method" involved in acquiring meaningful data and analysis.

The two playback records included herein as illustrations (Figures 14 and 15) are from the Division of Highways' vehicle crash test #214 conducted on September 25, 1968. It shows the car deceleration due to impact, without filtering, in Figure 14 and with filtering in Figure 15.

High frequency "ringing" of the car chassis during impact (Figure 14) created difficulty in data analysis. Therefore, the magnetic tape recordings were played back with a Krohn-Hite filter set to attenuate frequencies above 12 Hertz. Since the actual impact test was originally recorded at a tape speed of 30 ips and played back at 3-3/4 ips (speed reduction of 8 to 1), the real-time filtering of the impact signal is 96 Hertz (8 x 12 = 96). In other words, the filter is set to attenuate real-time signal frequencies above 96 Hertz. As previously mentioned, Figure 15 is the filtered record of Figure 14 and indicates that the car sustained a maximum deceleration of 12.4 G's.

Further analysis of the car deceleration was performed by the use of an EAI-Pace model TR-10 analog computer. A diagram of the analog computer setup is shown in Figure 17. Vehicle crash test #214, channel 2 again is used for illustration.

The vehicle crash test deceleration signal was fed into the analog computer and integrated twice. The first integration of acceleration produced the vehicle's velocity and the second integration produced the car's penetration (distance) into the barrier. A plot of the double integration (velocity and distance) resulting from the analog computer operation is shown in Figure 18.

Examination of Figure 18 shows that the impact duration was 0.4 seconds because the car velocity reached zero at that time and the car had penetrated into the barrier 10.1 foot in coming to rest in that time period. The analog computation of the original car deceleration signal has produced two additional meaningful car crash parameters: distance of car travel and car velocity during impact.

WYLE SYSTEMS

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IEM	QUANTITY	TAVE	DESCRIPTION	ļ
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_	?~	Tele	Telemetry Transmitters, Industrial Electronetics.	
		T-62	T-62A, S/N B-75, B-77, B-078, B-79, B-81, B-84	
		B-87		
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	ent.	Instr	Instruction Manuel, Endevco 4401	
	end.	Instr	Instruction Manual, Dynamics 7514B/3	
	t-rands	Instr	Instruction Manual, Industrial Electronetics Telemeter	
		System.	Pro-	
	5	Preli	Preliminary System Drawings	
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Page 4 of 4

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WYLE SYSTEMS A Division of Wyle Laboratories

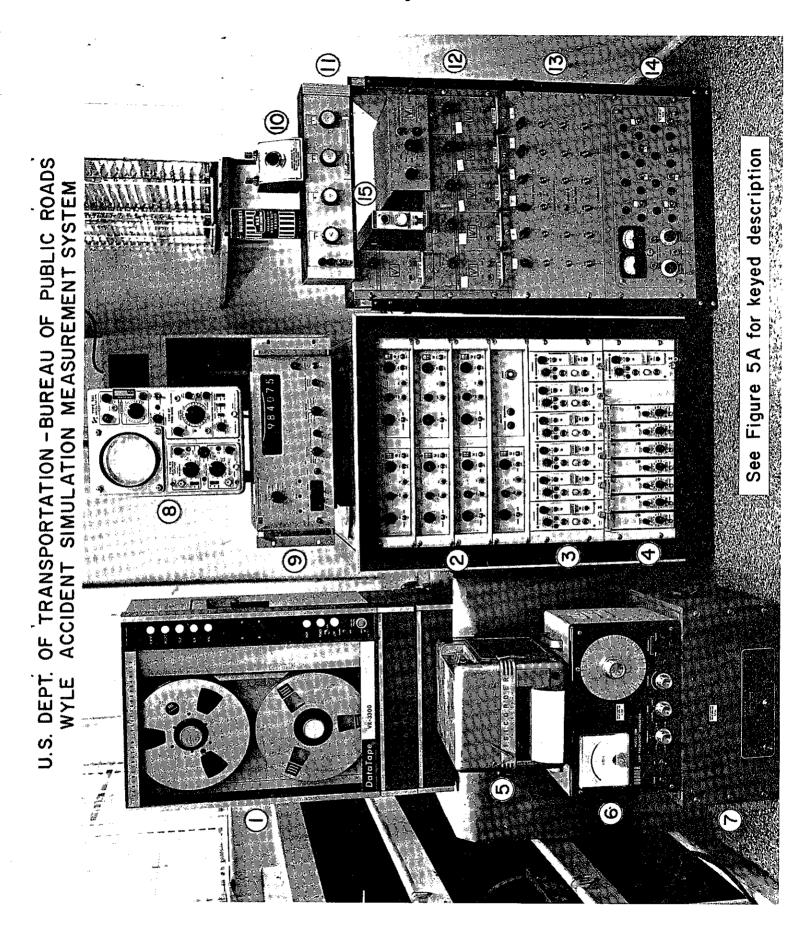
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128 Maryland Street El Segundo, California 90245 678-4251 Area Code 213 TWX 910-348-6283 Cable WY	Div. lal ar folso nents	FC SD S10 E: \$50.00 C \$10	QUANTITY	
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Components of the Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System:

- Consolidated Electrodynamics Corporation Model VR-3300 magnetic record-reproduce tape transport.
- 7 channels of Industrial Electronetics Corp. Model R-71 telemetry receivers.
- 3. 7 channels of Endevco Corp. Model 4401 signal conditioning modules.
 - 4. 7 channels of Dynamic Instrumentation Company Model 7514 B/J differential amplifiers.

California Division of Highways Equipment:

- 5. Honeywell Visicorder Oscillograph Model 906.
- 6. Systron-Donner function generator Model 1500.
- 7. Sorensen AC voltage regulator Model 1001.
- 8. Tektronix oscilloscope Model 561.
- 9. Hewlett-Packard digital voltmeter Model 2401C.
- 10. Helipot potentiometer Model T-10A.
- 11. Shallcross decade resistor box Model 6866.
- 12. Video DC amplifiers Model 72R.
- 13. Galvanometer control panel.
- 14. Consolidated Electrodynamics bridge balance Model 18-108.
 - 15. Video Model SR-1000 D.C. power supply.
 - 16. Krohn-Hite Electronic Filter Model 335 (not shown).

See Figure 6A for keyed description

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U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION - BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS ACCIDENT SIMULATION MEASUREMENT SYSTEM WYLE

Components of the Wyle Accident Simulation Measurement System:

- 1. 7 channels of Industrial Electronetics Corp. Model T62-A transmitters.
- 2. Transmitting antenna.
- 3. Industrial Electronetics battery charger Model BC-45-4.
- 5. 5 Statham Model A514Tc accelerometers (2 not shown).
- 6. BLH seat belt transducer Model BLHP0265.
- 7. 350 ohm calibration test bridge.
- 8. 120 ohm calibration test bridge.

California Division of Highways Equipment:

- 4. Statham accelerometer Model A5a.
- 9. Shallcross decade resistor box Model 6844.

U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION - BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS WYLE ACCIDENT SIMULATION MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

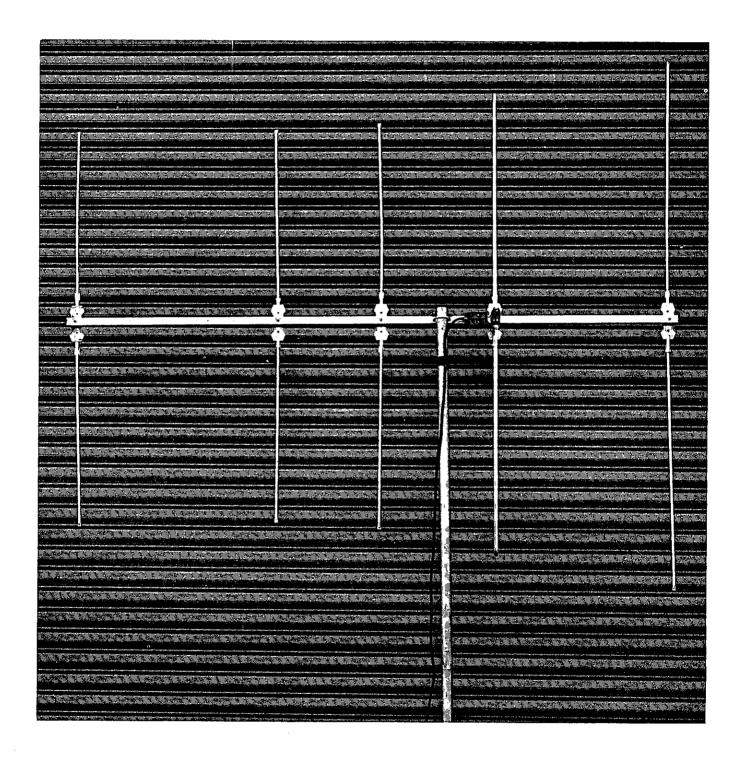


Ground channel data cable and junction box with mating connectors.

regulation of the

Market Comment

U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION - BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS WYLE ACCIDENT SIMULATION MEASUREMENT SYSTEM



Yagi 5 element receiving antenna

FIGURE 9

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS WYLE ACCIDENT SIMULATION MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

BARRIER SYSTEM

TRANSDUCER SHUNT RESISTANCE CALIBRATIONS

Repaired 5-29-69

^{**} Repaired 3-26-69

FIGURE 10

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

WYLE ACCIDENT SIMULATION MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

TELEMETRY SYSTEM

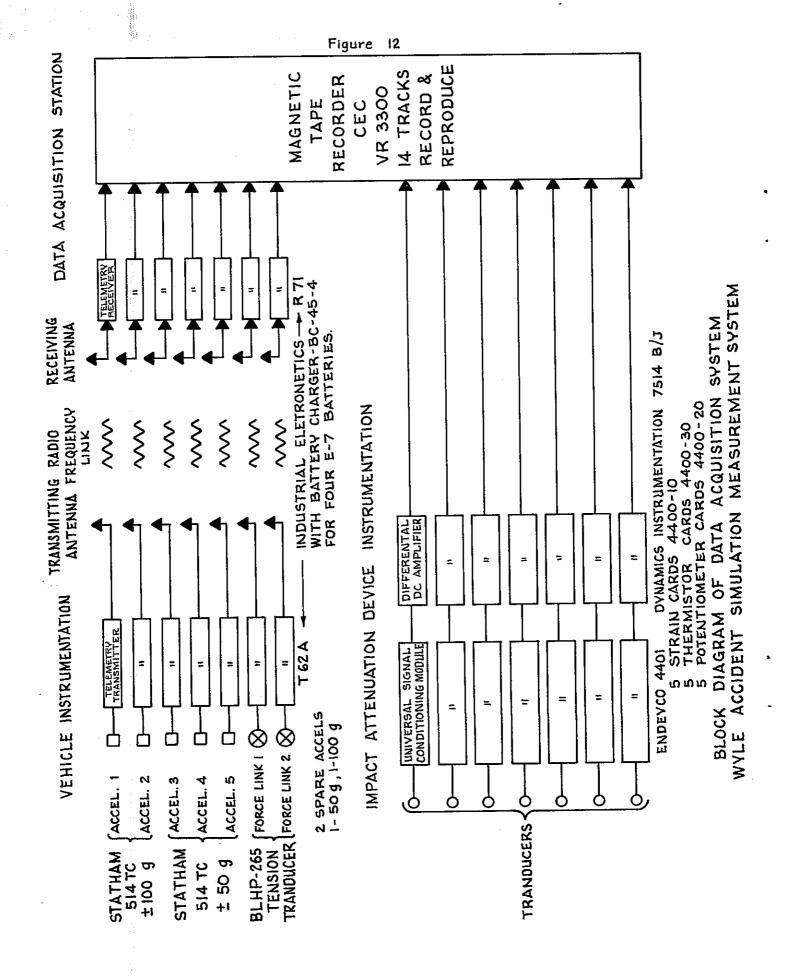
TRANSDUCER SHUNT RESISTANCE CALIBRATIONS

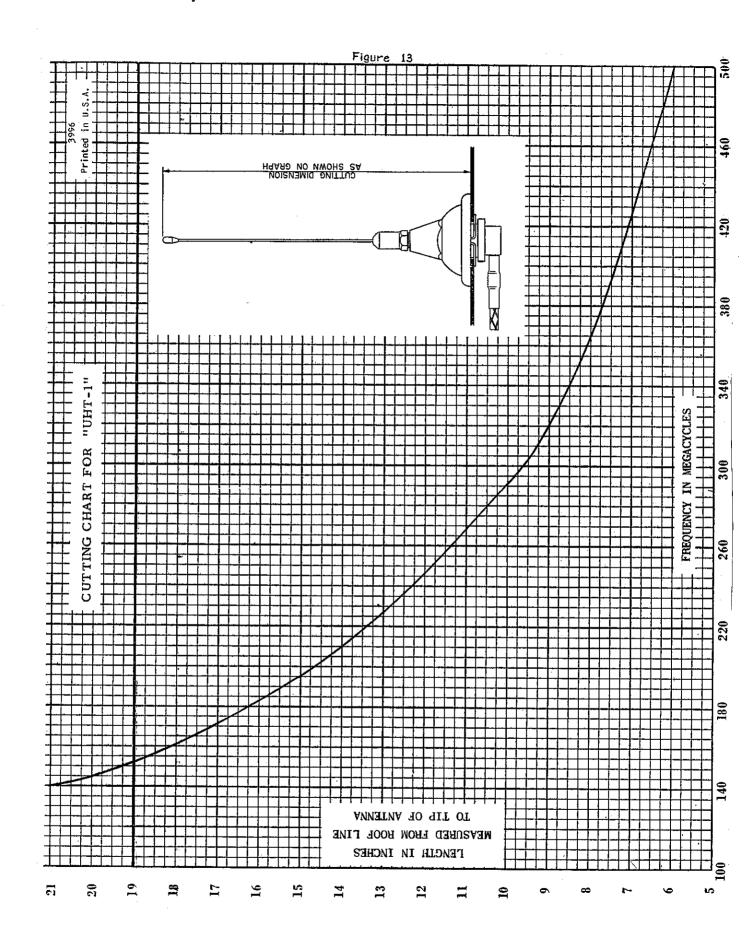
Accelerometer		Serial No.	Range	10g	209	shunt Re 30g	Shunt Resistance 30g 40g	509	1009
Statham A 514	514 Tc	2081	+ 50g	82k	41.2k	27k	20k	16.2k	
Statham A 514	ا	2083	+100g	186k	92k	60°9k	44.6k	36.2k	18.1k
Statham A 514	Tc	2084	<u>+</u> 100g	215k	105k	70k	51.6k	41.6k	20.8k
Statham A 514	Ď.	2085	+100g	Repair	Repaired 5-29-69 No	oN 69.	value.		
Statham A 514	ည္ :	2062	± 50g	103k	50.5k	33.7k	25.1k	19.9k	
Statham A 514	ა ლ	2077	± 50g	100k	49.1k	33.1k	24.8k	19.9k	
Statham A 514	ا د	2080	± 50g	Repair	Repaired 3-26-69 No value.	on 69.	value.		
Seat-Belt Transducer	Serial No.	Range	200#	1000#	1500#	2000#	3000#	3500#	
ВТН	W-438	#200#	117k	58.6k	39.6k	29.9k	20.1k	17.2k	
ВСН	W-437	4200#	141k	67.9k	44°6k	33k	22.2k	19.1k	

Figure II

Experimental Barrier Rail Yagi - 5 Element Receiving Antenna Area of reliable data reception 00 Antenna Direction - 300'± Radius -\°09/ Transmitting Antenna T Crash Vehicle

WYLE TELEMETRY SYSTEM RECEIVING ANTENNA COVERAGE





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